

This Week at  
 Temple Israel of Long Beach  
 Experiencing the Warmth of Tradition



July 25, 2026  
 11 Av 5786  
 Shabbat Vaetchanan  
 Shabbat Nachamu

**PARSHAT VAETCHANAN**

**The Fewest of All People**

In this parsha, Moses reminds the people of Israel of the great Revelation at Mount Sinai. He says:

*"The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you are more numerous than other peoples, for you are the fewest of peoples" (Deut. 7:7).*

Moses' point here is – compared to other nations, they were still small.

*"When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you...." (Deut. 7:1).*

In other words, not only were the Israelites smaller than the great empires of the ancient world, but they were also smaller than the other nations in the region. Compared to their origins they had grown but compared to their neighbors they remained tiny.

Israel will be the smallest of the nations for a reason that goes to the very heart of its existence as a nation. It will show the world that a people do not have to be large in order to be great. It does not have to be numerous to defeat its enemies.

Moses' statement has immense implications for Jewish identity. Jews have an influence out of proportion to their numbers because we are all called on to be leaders, to take responsibility, to contribute, to make a difference to the lives of others, and to bring the Divine Presence into the world. Precisely because we are small, we are each summoned to greatness.

We may be the fewest of all peoples, but when we heed God's call, we have the ability, proven many times in the past, to mend and transform the world.

Excerpt from:  
 "Lessons In Leadership"  
 by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

**Candle Lighting**

Shabbat - 8:01 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat – 8:11 pm



The Temple Israel family  
 wishes Mazel Tov

to first-time grandma

**Malky Asarch**

on the birth of

**Devora Miriam**

Congratulations to the  
 proud parents

**Michelle & Charles**

**Herzek**

and the entire mishpacha

*May The Families Continue  
 To Have Much Joy and  
 Happiness*



We thank the following donors for their  
 generous contributions to Temple Israel  
 this past week.

**Seth Jackson**

**Eleanor T. Sobel**

**Lauren & Bruce Bendell**

**Elizabeth & Leon Lebowitz**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Lester Peysner**

**Rita Berger**

**Blanche Levy**

**Chaim Tzvi Klein**

**Morton Kominsky**

**Henry Lebowitz**

**Edward Leyendecker**

**Blanche Zimring**

**Marcie Livingston**

**Kai Denson**

**Joan Schlissel**

**Deborah Dickstein**

**Bonnie Gurland**

**Esther Buckner**

**Irwin Richmond**

**Helen Dresner**

**Gert Griboff**

**Sima Buckner**

**Sidney Weinman**

**Elyse Silverman**

**Carol Kantor**

**Louis Meltzer**